

**John Kirkpatrick to George Washington, September 22, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM JOHN KIRKPATRICK, ESQ.**

ALEXANDRIA Septemr. 22d. 1756

DEAR SIR

I had your favour at Noon, before Which the Express had set out for Mount Vernon after giving him half a Dollar for Expences —

The uneasiness you Lye under from the Vain Babling of Worthless, Malicious, Envious Sycophants, give me much Concern—Conscious of a Due & Honorable Discharge of Your Duty, [as undoubtedly you Must be] Their Censure, & Scurrility loses its force & Vemon by Your Silent Contempt, and Disdain—No Character or Station is free from Calumny, and to be Sure, You can't expect a Singularity of that nature, Especially in that Conspicuous Office You so justly hold—The Self evident Falsitys aserted by that Witty Writer of the Centinell, must Condemn him in the Judgement of every Rationall, Reflecting Being—and to Regard his Ill natured Slander by Vindication of Facts woud be a Condescension, arguing a Consciousness of the Crime—Which is all his Spite Aims at —

In the Short time I have had to dive into the Generall Opinion of Your resignation I find it disagreeable & unpleasant to all their inclinations, and wou'd certainly be at a Loss for Such another to fill your place—I Communicated yours to Mr. Ramsay who thinks as every Body else must, that to Lay down Your Commisso. now, woud be the Means of More

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reflections, and less Satisfaction to you—Tho, Two, three or four are gathered together to foment an ill spirit of Slander, and propagate Lyes, to Amuse the Unthinking Mob—You & every Reasonable person is Sensible that the whole thinking part of the Legislative power,—are Much in Your Interest, & pleased with your Conduct for the preservation of the Country—How far you have miss'd in the design cannot be Laid to your Charge,—on a Single review of the Circumstances, Difficulties, and Extent of Frontier—might I be allowed to offer my Opinion—I woud Overlook the Scurrility of the Centinell,—Continue to Serve My Country wt the usual Zeal—Remark the Determinations of this Assembly, & their future Behavior—Wait upon His Excellency Lord Loudon—& take my Measures in Consequence of their issues—For as Pope Says —

Envy, will Merit like a Shade pursue, And like a Shadow prove the Substance true.

I have hurried off these few thoughts irregularly wc. I hope you'll excuse, on Account of keeping the Boy for Some information —

The Sentiments you entertain of my Sincere Respect & Attachment to Your Person & Interest do Me much Honor, & I wou'd urge the truth—I shall transgress on your hand permission of stay here, not a Moment beyond my necessity—I hope to be Able on the pleasure of seeing You, to be more explicit on the above—Believe me now DeSr. Your Most Obt. Hum Servt. JNo. KIRKPATRICK.

Mr. Ramsay has wrote you —